



# NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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**Dolphin SMART® welcomes two new Florida businesses dedicated to conservation of dolphins in coastal waterways**  
*Odyssey Cruises and Captain Dennis Wilson Charters in Tarpon Springs are Dolphin SMART*

NOAA Fisheries and its partners welcome Odyssey Cruises and Captain Dennis Wilson Charters to Dolphin SMART - a unique wild dolphin conservation program. Dolphin SMART recognizes businesses that responsibly advertise and view wild dolphins and educate their patrons on dolphin conservation. Odyssey Cruises and Captain Dennis Wilson are committed to bringing responsible viewing to waterways around Tarpon Springs, Florida.

"We are pleased to have two new Dolphin SMART businesses in the same vicinity," said Grant Craig, NOAA Fisheries' Dolphin SMART coordinator for Florida's west coast. "They set a great example for other boaters by responsibly viewing dolphins in the wild."

Viewing dolphins safely and responsibly, as well as advertising responsible viewing practices, is a cornerstone of the Dolphin SMART program. According to scientists, irresponsible viewing of wild dolphins may disrupt important behaviors causing negative impacts to the health of dolphins and their young. Visitors viewing dolphins with Dolphin SMART businesses enjoy a respectful tour that supports dolphin conservation while learning about dolphin biology and behavior.

"Being Dolphin SMART for us was an easy decision because as a true nature cruise, we want to maintain the health of our dolphins," said Alicia Wilson, naturalist with Odyssey Cruises, "We also want to teach people about properly viewing dolphins to ensure we will see them here for years to come."

There are now 18 recognized businesses in Florida and Hawaii in the steadily growing Dolphin SMART program. NOAA Fisheries encourages visitors to these areas to "look before you book" and support wild dolphin conservation by patronizing a Dolphin SMART business. Participating businesses display a Dolphin SMART flag and decal with the current calendar year. Participants are regularly evaluated to ensure they continue to voluntarily meet program standards. A list of Dolphin SMART businesses is available online at <http://www.dolphinSMART.org>.

The Dolphin SMART program was developed by NOAA's Fisheries and the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Whale and Dolphin Conservation, and Dolphin Ecology Project. The acronym "SMART" is a reminder of the basic principles of dolphin viewing etiquette:

- **Stay** at least 50 yards from dolphins,
- **Move** away slowly if the dolphins show signs of disturbance,
- **Always** put your vessel engine in neutral when dolphins are near,
- **Refrain** from feeding, touching, or swimming with wild dolphins,
- **Teach** others to be Dolphin SMART.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources. Visit <http://www.noaa.gov>.

#### **On the web:**

Dolphin SMART: [www.dolphinSMART.org](http://www.dolphinSMART.org)

Dolphin SMART on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OfficialDolphinSmart?fref=ts>

Marine Mammal Smart Phone apps:

[http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/protected\\_resources/outreach\\_and\\_education/mm\\_apps/index.html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/protected_resources/outreach_and_education/mm_apps/index.html)

NOAA Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office:

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/mm/dolphins/bdconservation.htm>

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>

Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society: [www.wdcs-na.org](http://www.wdcs-na.org)

Dolphin Ecology Project: <http://www.dolphinecology.org>

Don't Feed Wild Dolphins: [www.dontfeedwilddolphins.org](http://www.dontfeedwilddolphins.org)



Odyssey Cruises, Tarpon Springs, FL